

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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the Political Department of the Central Committee of the SED demanded that 20,000 men who were suitable for employment as officer candidates be selected from the members of the SED. In addition, 15,000 officer candidates were to be recruited among the pupils of technical and vocational schools, and another 5,000 among the pupils of high schools.

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2. [redacted] severely criticized the lax execution by the Party offices of the ordinances of 3 November 1954. In order to eliminate these defects, **Hermann Materr** [redacted] was allegedly assigned the mission of checking on the activity of the recruiting committees. The quota of high school pupils who were scheduled to be recruited as officer candidates from 1 February to 30 April 1955 was as high as 25,000. These high school pupils should belong to the 1935 and 1936 classes.

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3. Due to expiration of the term of enlistment, about twice the number of soldiers discharged in the fall of 1954 was scheduled for discharge between 5 and 20 May 1955. Officials were ordered to induce, a large portion of these soldiers to extend their service up to the end of the training year, if possible.

4. Recruiting activities in March 1955 of the registration authorities were scheduled to benefit mainly the VP-Luft (air force). Their results were poor everywhere. Recruiting efforts to the benefit of the VP-See were very successful. On 15 March 1955, the Chemnitz BRV (District Registration Department) alone dispatched 90 men to Sassnitz. The same number was already announced for 19 April 1955.

5. In March 1955, the KRAs (County Registration Departments), in cooperation with the county police offices, kept the index cards of individuals subject to the draft up-to-date.

6. On 24 March 1955 at a conference of the BRV executives in Leipzig, it was announced that the recruiting action for the KVP was to discontinue immediately. Volunteers required were scheduled to be provided by the SED, the FDJ and the GST by means of Party orders and voluntary enlistments.

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This action which began on 1 April 1955 was allegedly scheduled to terminate as early as 15 April 1955. It was demanded that the volunteers be 18 to 23 years old and report to the KRAs. The terms of enlistment were 2 years for the KVP-Land, and 3 years for the VP-Luft (air force) and the VP-See (navy). Collective shipments to the units were scheduled to be made between 12 and 15 April.

7. In early December 1954, boys and girls of the Falkensee high school who belonged to the 1937 class or older classes were subjected to a medical examination which was similar to a registration. The only two qualifications were either "fit" or "unfit".
8. In mid-January 1955, 128 students of the Deutsche Hochschule fuer Koerperkultur (German University for Physical Training) whose period of training as coaches was to be terminated with this class, were taken over as officer candidates by the KVP. Fourteen students who refused to join the KVP were barred from further study.
9. At a meeting in early January 1955, the manager of the VEB Montan plant in Leipzig said that dismissals should be concentrated on members of the 1930 through 1936 classes. He emphasized that it was forbidden to hire members of these classes.
10. [redacted] the Reichsbahn-run vocational school in Pasewalk, all pupils were requested by recruiters to join the KVP in late February 1955.

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Comment. Prior to late March 1955, the system of recruiting with the aid of recruiting committees has apparently remained unchanged. Since the Western treaties have been ratified in West Germany and the date of discharge of numerous soldiers is approaching, it is not astonishing that, starting on 1 April 1955, recruiting problems are apparently tackled with increased intensity compared to the previous policy. It is still undetermined whether or not, as mentioned in paragraph 6, recruiting activity under the previous system will be completely discontinued and replaced by Party orders and voluntary enlistments. Enlistments in the KVP Land (army) for two years only are an absolute novelty. A previous report has mentioned that about 12,000 men were discharged last fall. As those soldiers who, in 1952, joined the KVP in connection with the increase of actual strength from about 54,000 to about 85,000 men complete their term of three years in 1955, the number of soldiers due for discharge may be estimated at 20,000 to 24,000 men. There is no doubt that the recruiting of so many volunteers can only be effected by applying measures of more increased severity compared with previous means. Introduction of universal military training is considered unlikely before the pertinent laws have been passed in West Germany.

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